CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A method in a portable device for transliterating text, the method comprising:

generating an image of the text using a camera function in the portable device;

sending the image with an identification of a source language and a target language to a transliteration service using a wireless communications link;

receiving a response from the transliteration service, wherein the response contains a transliteration of the text in the target language and wherein the transliteration contains a phonetic pronunciation of the text in the source language; and

presenting the transliteration.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the transliteration containing the phonetic pronunciation of the text in the source language is characters in the target language and wherein the presenting step comprises:

presenting the transliteration on a display in the portable device.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein text in the transliteration is converted into speech using a text to speech conversion process by the portable device or by the transliteration service.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the transliteration service is located on a server on an Internet.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the portable device is selected from one of a mobile phone, a personal digital assistant, and a table personal computer.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the wireless communications link has a protocol using at least one of code division multiple access, time division multiple access, Blue Tooth, I.E.E.E. 802.11b, and I.E.E.E. 802.11g.

7. A method in a data processing system for transliterating text from a source language to a target language, the method comprising:

receiving a request from a portable device, wherein the request includes an image of the text;

performing optical character recognition on the image to generate the text;

transliterating the text from the source language to the target language to form transliterated text, wherein the transliterated text contains a phonetic pronunciation of the text from the source language using characters in the target language; and

sending the transliterated text to the portable device.

8. A data processing system in a portable device for transliterating text, the data processing system comprising:

generating means for generating an image of the text using a camera function in the portable device;

sending means for sending the image with an identification of a source language and a target language to a transliteration service using a wireless communications link;

receiving means for receiving a response from the transliteration service, wherein the response contains a transliteration of the text in the target language and wherein the transliteration contains a phonetic pronunciation of the text in the source language; and

presenting means for presenting the transliteration.

9. The data processing system of claim 8, wherein the transliteration containing the phonetic pronunciation of the text in the source language is characters in the target language and wherein the presenting means comprises:

means for presenting the transliteration on a display in the portable device.

10. The data processing system of claim 8, wherein text in the transliteration is converted into speech using a text to speech conversion process by the portable device or by the transliteration service.

11. The data processing system of claim 8, wherein the translation service is located on a server on an Internet.

12. The data processing system of claim 8, wherein the portable device is selected from one of a mobile phone, a personal digital assistant, and a table personal computer.

13. A data processing system for transliterating text from a source language to a source language, the data processing system comprising:

receiving means for receiving a request from a portable device, wherein the request includes an image of the text;

performing means for performing optical character recognition on the image to generate the text;

translating means for transliterating the text from the source language to the target language to form transliterated text; and

sending means for sending the transliterated text to the portable device.

14. A computer program product in a computer readable medium in a portable device for transliterating text, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions for generating an image of the text using a camera function in the portable device;

second instructions for sending the image with an identification of a source language and a target language

to a transliteration service using a wireless communications link;

third instructions for receiving a response from the transliteration service, wherein the response contains a transliteration of the text in the target language and wherein the transliteration contains a phonetic pronunciation of the text in the source language; and

fourth instructions for presenting the transliteration.

15. The computer program product of claim 14, wherein the transliteration containing the phonetic pronunciation of the text in the source language is characters in the target language and wherein the fourth instructions comprises:

sub-instructions for presenting the translation on a display in the portable device.

16. The computer program product of claim 14, wherein text in the transliteration is converted into speech using a text to speech conversion process by the portable device or by the transliteration service.

17. The computer program product of claim 14, wherein the transliteration service is located on a server on an Internet.

18. The computer program product of claim 14, wherein the portable device is selected from one of a mobile phone, a personal digital assistant, and a table personal computer.

19. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for transliterating text from a source language to a source language, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions for receiving a request from a portable device, wherein the request includes an image of the text;

second instructions for performing optical character recognition on the image to generate the text;

third instructions for transliterating the text from the source language to the target language to form translated text, wherein the transliterated text contains a phonetic pronunciation of the text from the source language using characters in the target language; and

fourth instructions for sending the transliterated text to the portable device.

20. A portable device comprising:

a bus system;

a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the memory includes a set of instructions; and

a processing unit connected to the bus system, wherein the processing unit executes the set of instructions to generate an image of the text using a camera function in the portable device; send the image

with an identification of a source language and a target language to a transliteration service using a wireless communications link; receive a response from the transliteration service, wherein the response contains a transliteration of the text in the target language and wherein the transliteration contains a phonetic pronunciation of the text in the source language; and present the transliteration.

21. A data processing system comprising:

a bus system;

a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the memory includes a set of instructions; and

a processing unit connected to the bus system, wherein the processing unit executes the set of instructions to receive a request from a portable device, wherein the request includes an image of the text; perform optical character recognition on the image to generate the text; transliterate the text from a source language to a target language to form transliterated text wherein the transliterated text contains a phonetic pronunciation of the text from the source language using characters in the target language; and send the transliterated text to the portable device.